News from that part of

His Majesties Fleet

That lies at

HARWICH:

Giving an Impartial Account of all considerable Occurrences since its first Setting out to Sea to this present time.

8. 7. Aug. 1689 Licensed, Aug. 5. 1689. J. F.

From on Board the *Hannibal*, Aug. 2. 1689.

My good Friend,

ACcording to my promise while at London, *these are to give you an Account of what has occurr'd considerable since I left you, which I will continue as often as I have opportunity, and give you leave, if you think fit, to make it publick.* I am, Sir, your Friend and Servant,

Samuel Westley Chaplain of Their Majesties Ship The *Hannibal*.

Ousley Bay near *Harwich*.

HAving received protection from my Countrey these seven and twenty years, I thought my self almost obliged to venture my Life for it at the least this one or two. And accordingly I Addrest my self to my good Lord of St. *Asaph*, by whose favour I was recommended to my Lord of *London*, and obtained his Letter to the Lords Commanders of the Admiralty for a Chaplains Place Aboard their Majesties Ship the *Hannibal*, Captain *Joseph Waters* Commander. I received my Warrant from the Admiralty Office the 24th of *June* 1689. and a little after went Aboard at *Deptford*, and presented it to the Captain, and then went ashore again to provide for my Voyage.

Some few days after our Ship fell down to *Longreach*. Where I came Aboard for good and all the 13th of *July*, and the 14th in the Evening we had Orders to fall down to the Buoy in the *Nore*, whither we came the 17th, and Anchored there, together with the *Arch-Angel*, the *Samuel* and *Henry*, the *Scepter*, the *George*, and some others.

On the 18th the Sea ran pretty high, and we had blowing weather. About Dinner time a Wherry from *London* hail'd us; but was driven by with the Tyde, and Moor'd to our Buoy where they were like to be lost; till we Veer'd out a Buoy and Line, by which they got up to our Long-Boat and came Aboard, having a Letter to the Captain.

After Dinner we accidentally found a fault in our Main-Mast, which was all rotten before-on which we sent a Letter to *London* to give an account of it, and had on the 22d following Orders to fall into *Sheerness* for a new one, and having little wind, our Pinnace and long Boat being abroad a pressing, we borrowed the Archangels Boat to help us in. About ten at night we heard the Archangel Fire her Guns, but thought it only a Salute: But the next morning, our own Boats as they came by her brought us news she had been a fire: some of the Sailers dropping a Candle lighted between the Cables, which being fired, they were afraid to speak out till all was in a Flame. They made a shift to quench it without any help, and clapt one or two of their people in the *Bilbo's* till they can be tryed for it, as well as one more who is a Papist, for speaking Scandalous words against the King and Government.

A few days after they had orders to Sail for the Northward toward *Scotland*, with the *Samson* and another ship under their Command, to secure those parts from the French Privateers.

Tuesday the 25. We got into *Sheerness*; whither our

our Mast came on *Thursday* Evening the 25. At which time we also heard the happy news of the Princes's delivery of a Son, and received it with all the demonstrations of Joy usual in such cases.

On *Saturday* the 27. Our Captain according to his final orders, Sail'd out of *Sheerness* to the *Buoy* in the *Nore*, where we took under our Command a Fleet of little Vessels designed for *Chester*, and the Irish Service. They were in sum 42, not reckoning two more we expected, not yet come up. A dozen of 'em little Frigats, and Fighting Ships, with Men and Guns accordingly. Their names as follows.

The *Fantau* } not yet come up.
The *Dragon* Sloop }
The *Navy* Yatch
The St. *Males* Merchant
The *Anne* Catch
The *Charity* Catch
The *Unity* Catch
The *Prosperous* Catch
The *Welcom* Catch
The *Richard* and *Martha* Catch
The *Edward* and *Susan* Hoy
The *Sea adventure* Hoy.

On *Munday* the 29 and *Tuesday* the 30. The Fighting Ships and others came thick aboard us for Fighting or Sailing Instructions. After dinner we fired a Gun for the signal, and set Sail with our Fleet. Towards evening we made the *Buoy in the Edge of the Nore*, where we came to an Anchor; and discovered some *Scandiroon* men, who made the best of their way to get from us: We fired a Gun and brought 'em to an Anchor; some of 'em came aboard, and told us they heard nothing of the War till just come home, having met not one Ship either *French* or *English*.

Wedn. 31. Hearing no news of the *Fantau* or *Dragon* Sloop, we weighed and got about ten to the *Shoe*; where we took in some of our Sail, the Fleet not being able to keep up with us except one or two men of War Catches.

This day came aboard Mr. *Philpot*, Master of the *Unity* Catch, and got leave of the Captain for our Surgeon to go and take an Inventory of a Surgeons Chest, left aboard his Vessel. His name — — He came aboard at *Deptford*, but was drunk, and went ashore the same Evening in the same pickle he came thither, since when they ne'er heard from him, and got another Surgeon. In overlooking his Chest, they found two or three Popish Books; A Breviary, a Manual, and a little Latin book written by a Jesuit, intituled *Christianæ Cogitationes*. In the spare leaves of the Manual was written a prayer to their St. *Ignatius*, and in the Latin Book, *Ex domo Dom. Cooke è Societate Jesu.* But the Cream of all was Beads and Crucifix, and a Relick that we knew not what to make of. 'Twas a pretty little sort of a Bag of Cloath of Silver, with a Silver-wire-ring at the end on't. The Inside was a kind of a Blue cloath, no doubt the appurtenance of some St. or other, but whether a piece of St. *Peters* blew Breeches, or St. *Brandons* Sea-shirt, we are like to be at a loss till the right owner comes to fetch 'em; where he may have 'em if he tells the marks, the Captain having entred 'em in his Manual, and laid 'em up: And we all firmly believe they'l as surely keep us from Shipwrack as the Nail of the Cross did the Emperor who threw it into the Sea and stopt a Tempest by its wonderful virtue.

About twelve we had a brisk Gale, the Wind Southerly, we made the *Buoy in the middle* and took in more Sail, the Fleet being almost a League behind.

In the Evening we had very blowing weather, and the Sea very high. About two in the morning one of our men going along on the Gunnil (or side of the Ship) his Feet slipt and he fell over-board, and went quite under the Ship; But being an excellent Swimmer, got with the Tide to a little Catch that rode not far off, who took him up and saved his life.

Thursday the first of *August*, we had bad weather, the wind veering to all points, and the Sea so high that we now expected a Storm in earnest, having had good weather a great while before. It grew worse and worse, and several of our Fleet made signals that they were in distress: But while we were thinking of getting into *Harwich* or some Road to come to an Anchor, we discovered a great Ship bearing in; which not knowing but it might be an Enemy, we prepared to fight; but this we now did the more suspect when we perceived her Vanes were white, and therefore shotted all our Guns, and buttled in good earnest, bearing up to her with all the Sail we were able; And in about an hours Sailing coming up with her, we found her only a great *East-India* man, the *Bengale* Merchant, whose Vanes were grown white with the weather. So we eat our Supper in peace, and went to Bed without fighting, coming to Anchor in *Ousley* Bay, where we now ride, waiting for some of our Fleet, one of them having sprung her Main-mast, another is laky, and some of the rest being a little disabled with the rough weather. In my next expect a larger account.

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